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GROWTH OF BRITISH POPULATION.

The following paragraph taken from the *London Times*, February 5, 1897, compares the growth of the population of Great Britain with that of Germany, which is rapidly becoming an important commercial rival :—

The memorandum of the Board of Trade gives the increase of population during the last 25 years in the countries mentioned as follows: France, two millions; United Kingdom, eight millions; Germany, 11 millions; and United States, 31 millions. The increase of the United States includes that of the colored population. Dealing only with white populations, that of Germany appears to have increased faster than that of Great Britain by three millions. But precisely within the last five-and-twenty years the habit has grown in the families of the United Kingdom of sending members of the younger generation to the colonies. The natural increase to be expected from these branches of the family has taken place outside the limits of the United Kingdom. We look for it in the records of the colonies, and we find that, as nearly as they can be stated, the figures for the years 1871 and 1895 are as follows. It should be said that, owing to irregularities in the census, the figures for South Africa are only approximate. They include the white population alone :—

WHITE POPULATION IN THE SELF-GOVERNING BRITISH COLONIES.

	1871	1895
Dominion of Canada..	3,635,024	5,083,424
Australasia	1,924,770	4,238,369
South Africa.....	250,000	500,000
	5,809,794	9,821,793

Thus in 25 years, while Germany has gained upon us by three millions at the heart of the Empire, we have gained four millions at the outskirts, and the total gains in both cases stand thus: Germany, 11 millions; Great Britain, 12 millions. The result given in the memorandum of the Board of Trade is reversed, and British increase of population, instead of being less, is greater than that of Germany.

TRADE OF UNITED KINGDOM.

The following paragraphs taken from the *London Economist* of January 23, 1897, summarize the growth of trade in the United

Kingdom during the year 1896. The conclusions are based on the returns of the Board of Trade:—

Resulting from this close investigation of these figures it is seen:—

1. That the total trade of the kingdom, which in 1895 advanced in its declared value by £21,000,000, has now progressed by £36,000,000 more. Of this £25,500,000 is found to be due to increases in quantity, and £10,447,000 to have arisen from better average prices. The share in this growth belonging to the imports is £25,000,000, and to the British exports £14,000,000, subject to a reduction of £3,000,000 for a diminution in the re-exports, which, however, being so much less of the original imports removed to other countries, really means an addition to the value reserved for home use.

2. Of the £25,000,000 by which the value of the imports has increased, £18,000,000 represents an addition to the quantities and £7,000,000 the higher prices at which they are declared. Of the British exports the £14,000,000 is divided into £11,000,000 for quantity and £3,000,000 for price. Last year the order was very different, for, though the gain in quantities of both imports and exports was much greater in 1895, it was attended by an extensive lowering in prices, which brought the apparent growth below that we are now recording for 1896.

3. Of this increase in the imports, £9,000,000 is in articles for food and £16,000,000 in material for manufacture and manufactured goods, the quantities of food imports being £10,000,000, lessened by £1,000,000 decrease in price, that of the other division being £7,500,000 more for quantity and £8,500,000 for price. Of this latter, £6,000,000 is due to the one article of cotton-wool, a consideration which materially affects the extra price obtained for the exports.

4. Of the £11,000,000 increase in the British exports nearly the half is to be found in the class of metals and machinery, principally in quantity, £4,000,000 being due to iron in weight alone, nearly £2,000,000 to machinery, and as much more to manufactured articles. The £3,000,000 growth in value is wholly due to the rise in the price of the raw material, which is, indeed, more than this amount, decreases in food and coal having neutralized another £1,000,000.

5. It is not possible now to draw attention to the many other points of interest which the tables contain. They abundantly justify the expectations expressed a twelve-month since, and as the closing month of the year supplied fully one-fourth of the whole increase on the twelve, there is evidently as yet no check to the rising tide of trading progress.

STATISTICS OF VACCINATION.

At a meeting of the Royal Statistical Society, London, held February 16, a paper on "English Vaccination and Small-pox Statistics,